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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/884,686	MASUNAGA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Phirin Sam	2661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/19/2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |


PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1 and 2, prior arts do not disclose a data transfer system, comprising a combination of:

- (1) reciprocation time calculating means for calculating a maximum reciprocation time based on the measured propagation times, the maximum reciprocation time indicating the time in which the predetermined data is reciprocated for the end device farthest away from the management apparatus; and
- (2) reference value calculating means for calculating a reference value based on the maximum reciprocation time, the reference value being used to calculate a waiting time required when each device transfers the data.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, the prior arts do not disclose a data transfer management apparatus for managing the transfer of data transfer system including a plurality of the devices, each of the devices having a different rate for transferring the data and a different delay time for sending back data depending on the transfer rate, the devices being connected in a hierarchical branching arrangement including at least one intermediate device and at least one end device connected to the intermediate device, the data transfer management apparatus comprising a combination of:

- (1) reciprocation time calculating means for calculating a maximum reciprocation time based on the measured propagation times, the maximum reciprocation time indicating the time in

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which the predetermined data is reciprocated for the end device farthest away from the data transfer management apparatus; and

(2) reference value calculating means for calculating a reference value based on the maximum reciprocation time, the reference value being used to calculate a waiting time required when each device transfers the data.

Regarding claims 5 and 6, the prior arts do not disclose a method for transferring data in a data transfer system including a plurality of devices and a management apparatus for managing the transfer of data among the devices, the devices being connected in a hierarchical branching arrangement including at least one intermediate device and at least one end device connected to the intermediate device, each of the devices having a different rate for transferring the data and a different delay time for sending back data depending on the transfer rate, the devices being connected in a hierarchical branching arrangement including at least one intermediate device and at least one end device connected to the intermediate device, the data transfer method comprising a combination of:

- (1) measuring a propagation time between the management apparatus and each of the end devices by transmitting predetermined data to each of the end devices at the slowest transfer rate;
- (2) calculating a maximum reciprocation time based on the measured propagation times, the maximum reciprocation time indicating the time in which the predetermined data is reciprocated for the end device farthest away from the management apparatus; and
- (2) calculating a reference value based on the maximum reciprocating time, the reference value being used to calculate a waiting time required when each device transfers the data.

Conclusion

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

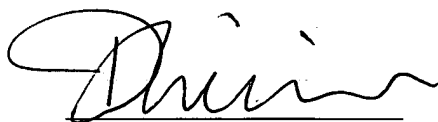
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phirin Sam whose telephone number is (571) 272-3082. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau T Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272 - 3126. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 23, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phirin", written over a horizontal line.

**PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER**